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BIG ICC DECISIONS

Male-to-female transgenders banned in women's int'l cricket

The ICC Board on Tuesday barred cricketers, who have been through any form of male puberty, from competing in international women's games regardless of whether or not they have undergone surgery or gender reassignment treatment

Setback for Sri Lanka

The ICC Board moved 2024 men's U-19 World Cup from Sri Lanka to South Africa, 11 days after it provisionally suspended Sri Lanka Cricket due to government interference. The team can compete both in bilateral series and ICC events

Stop clock in men's ODIs, T20Is

The Chief Executives' Committee (CEC) agreed to introduce a stop clock on a trial basis in men's ODI and T20I cricket from Dec 2023 to Apr 2024. The clock will regulate the amount of time taken between overs. If the bowling team is not ready to bowl the next over within 60 seconds of the previous over, a 5-run penalty will be imposed the third time it happens in an innings

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National Herald assets attached

Property worth ₹751.90 cr attached in money laundering probe; Congress flays ED action

UJWAL JALALI & PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

IN the midst of the election season, the Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday provisionally attached assets worth ₹751.90 crore in a money laundering case against Congress-promoted *National Herald* and entities linked to it, drawing sharp reaction from the party.

"Investigation revealed that Associated Journals Ltd (AJL) is in possession of proceeds of crime in the form of immovable properties spread across many cities of India such as Delhi, Mumbai and Lucknow to the tune of ₹661.69 crore and Young Indian is in possession of proceeds of crime to the tune of ₹90.21 cr in the form of investment in equity shares of AJL," the ED said on Tuesday.

National Herald is published by AJL and owned by Young Indian Private Limited. Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi are Young Indian's majority shareholders with a combined stake of 76%.

The agency's action comes at a time when elections in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, and Mizoram are in progress.

The Congress said the move reflected the BJP's desperation to divert attention from 'certain defeat' in the ongoing state polls. "This is a prefabricated structure of deceit, lies and falsehood, of by and for the BJP, to divert, distract and digress in the middle of elections," said party spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi.

The money-laundering probe stems from an order of Court of Metropolitan Magistrate of Delhi, which took cognizance of a private complaint. The court held that the seven accused, including Young Indian, committed offences under various sections of the IPC.

ED's provisional order has to be approved by the adjudicating authority of PMLA.

ED'S CHARGES

- AJL owed ₹90.21 crore to AICC, but the latter treated it as non-recoverable and sold the loan for ₹50 lakh to a newly incorporated company called Young Indian
- This action amounted to cheating the shareholders of AJL as well as donors of the Congress party
- AJL then held an EGM to increase share capital and issue fresh shares worth ₹90.21 crore to Young Indian
- With this, the stake of over 1,000 shareholders came down to 1% and AJL became a subsidiary of Young Indian, which took control over properties of AJL

First visuals of stuck workers; horizontal drilling prime option

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

THE first visuals of the 41 trapped labourers in an under-construction tunnel in Uttarkashi brought all-round relief on Tuesday, the 10th day of their stranding behind a heap of about 60 metre rubble.

With hot food being pushed through a 6-inch pipe inserted the previous day, their proper nourishment is now being addressed. It was through this pipe that endoscopic flexi cameras from Delhi were sent in to capture videos of the labourers speaking to their families, doctors, and officials.

Policywise, too, there was clarity as officials said resuming horizontal drilling was the primary option though it had to be halted last Friday after the auger machine developed a snag. Anurag Jain, secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, said that under the current circumstances "vertical drilling is the second best option".

First visuals of the workers trapped inside the tunnel speaking to their families | PTI

By the time drilling stopped on Friday, 3-ft wide pipes with a total length of 22 metres had been inserted into the rubble. On Tuesday, 2.7-ft wide pipes, too, were inserted into the 3-ft pipes up to the total length of 22 metres. The challenge is to resume drilling since the auger machine hit a hard obstacle before it stopped.

Parallelly, drilling has been started from the other end of the tunnel — the Badkot side. Col Deepak Patil, in-charge of rescue operations at the tunnel, said, "Drilling work has started from the Badkot end. For this, a team of eight from THDC has arrived. A tunnel of 2-2.5-metre diameter will be prepared from here."

Meanwhile, following an advisory by the I&B ministry advising TV channels not to sensationalise their reportage, the tone of coverage in Uttarakhand softened.

daCunha/AB/914

Dist court's action against seer preposterous, says K'taka HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE action of the Presiding Officer (PO) of the Second Additional District and Sessions Court at Chitradurga in handling the POCSO cases against Dr Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, pontiff of Sri Jagadguru Murugharajendra Bruhanmath, shocks its conscience and does not inspire confidence as it is preposterous to say the least, the Karnataka HC said.

"In what trial the PO wanted to summon the accused (pontiff) is still a mystery, as the trial in all the cases is directed to be deferred till the disposal of the petitions (filed by the pontiff questioning the proceedings are reserved for orders by HC) and there is a condition in the grant of bail that the accused shall not enter the jurisdiction of the sessions court. These two orders are thrown to the wind by the PO, in an act which is on the face of it subversive of judicial discipline," stated Justice M Nagaprasanna in the order passed on Tuesday. P6

EXPRESS READ

Rajneesh Goel appointed new Chief Secretary

Bengaluru: Senior IAS officer from the 1986 batch Rajneesh Goel has been appointed the new Chief Secretary of Karnataka. He will replace Vandita Sharma, who is retiring this month-end | P6

DyCM, Vokkaliga leaders against caste census

Bengaluru: DyCM DK Shivakumar has joined leaders from his Vokkaliga community in demanding CM Siddaramaiah to reject the 'socio-economic and educational' survey or the caste census report | P6

In Ballari, godown turns into residential school

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR @ Ballari

FOR the last seven years, students of a government residential school in Ballari district have been attending classes and staying in a godown. Yes, an APMC godown!

The new building to accommodate these students of Dr BR Ambedkar Residential School in Kerur village has not been completed in all these years. Though the work started in 2019, it was stopped abruptly. The students, both girls and boys, who have come from different villages in the district, have been studying and living under pathetic conditions. For the 230 students, from Classes 6 to 10, only five toilets have been constructed within the godown. P7

Students of Dr B R Ambedkar Residential School attend classes at an APMC godown at Kerur village of Ballari district | EXPRESS

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